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NSC BRIEFING

8 December 1954

SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

I. Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito is today steaming across the Red Sea enroute to meet another "in-betweenner"—Nehru of India. Tito's visit to last from mid-December into the new year.

- A. Invitation brought by Mre. Pandit in June, announced by Yugo 15 September. Indian and Yugo press comment on the visit rapturous, stressing common interests of both countries. Tito and his press take pains to deny intention of forming "third force." He will go from India to Burma, but is not going to China. Nor will he go to Pakistan, which invited him belatedly.
- B. This trip to the East extends Tito's post-war travels, which have previously been to countries of western alignment (England--March 1953; Turkey, Greece--spring 1954) Hints have been dropped for invitation for Tito from US. Other high Yugo leaders have specially emphasized visits to socialist groups in Asia and West Europe--latest such was October trip by number two man, Kardelj to Sweden, Norway and Belgium.

II. Tito's visit comes in midst of highly intensified period of Soviet wooing of Yugo, the speed-up starting mid-September.

A. Soviet gestures include:

16 Sept - Moscow starts quoting Yugo press and leaders,

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selecting to give impression of support for Soviet policy.

- 1 Oct - Small trade agreement--\$2.5 million each way by year's end--with USSR (Gruit-Yugo trade started in May--now at about 4% of Yugo foreign trade)
- 4 Oct - Warsaw pulls all anti-Tito books from bookstores--Soviet attaches personally repurchases such books in Paris.
- 12 Oct - Chinese Communist embassies reported inviting Yugo diplomats to national day parties.
- 16-20 Oct On tenth anniversary Belgrade liberation, USSR propaganda, for first time since split in 1948, imputes significant role to Yugoslav partisans in World War II.
- 6 Nov - Soviet Politburo member Saburov, in major speech, stresses improved relations with Yugo, and pledges continued efforts--Khrushchev seeks out Yugo Ambassador to tell him that the statement was a "carefully examined" decision of Soviet government.
- 22 Nov - Malenkov, Khrushchev, Molotov and Bulganin raise a toast to "Comrade Tito and the Yugoslav Communist Party" at Yugoslav embassy Republic Day celebration.

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1. This is first direct Soviet expression of "approval" toward the Yugo "heretics" since split in '48.
2. The attendance of Soviet bigwigs alone was an extraordinary event: They stayed at party over an hour and so alone to Yugo Ambassador, his normal social duties interfered with.

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3.



28-30 Nov Yugo anniversary given extraordinary attention throughout Orbit.

1. In Poland, leading figures including Bohdanowicz and Gekub, actually request invitations to attend party given by Yugo chargé, who had only invited officials of his own rank.
 2. In Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, premiers attend parties.
- B. Yugos have taken increasing steps to counterbalance impressions created by Soviet campaign.
1. Tito says he will not "go back to Moscow," calls such talk "arrant nonsense."
 2. He also says will not let improved Yugo-Soviet

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3. Likewise, he won't allow cut in Yugo defense budget.
4. Yugos refused to attend Moscow security conference, said it was a propaganda gesture.
5. No signs that Yugo changing basic trade orientation to West, or reliance on Western economic aid.

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C. Question of Tito's personal experiences with USSR gives interesting side-light to present "voicing." Review of history (warning: much of it written after '45 break) shows:

1. A Bapsburg POW, Tito spent 1915-20 in Russia-- fought on Bolshevik side, married, returned to Balkans.
2. Thereafter visited Moscow five times between '34-'39 on Cominform or Yugo Cominfo business but never met any high-level Soviet leaders, felt Yugo Cominfo were distrusted.
3. Up to '44, thoroughly enflattered by lack Soviet support for partisans, opposition to Yugo provisional government.
4. First met Stalin on sixth Moscow trip, Sept '44.

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8. For the first half year following break in June 1948, Tito unwilling to blame Stalin himself, who was "misinformed" by those around him.

iii. Aside from propaganda considerations, the USSR has a real interest in reversing the trend toward closer Yugoslav ties with the West as exemplified by such concrete commitments as the Balkan Pact. The probable Soviet aim is to bring Yugoslavia back to a neutral position.

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